

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LIMA 04997 202347Z

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ACTION L-02

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5600

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 4997

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: BBAK, PFOR, EIND, PE

SUBJECT: EXPROPRIATION OF GULF DEL PERU

REF: STATE 139936

1. AFTER UNSUCCESSFUL EFFORTS BY ECONOMIC COUNSELOR THIS WEEK TO DELIVER NOTE TO BOTH ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL DIVISIONS OF FOREIGN MINISTRY (THEY SAID NOTE WAS TOO HOT TO HANDLE AND SHOULD BE PRESENTED "AT AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL"). I MADE APPOINTMENT TO SEE SECRETARY GENERAL GARCIA BEDOYA TO DELIVER NOTE AT 12:30 TODAY. SECRETARY GENERAL, WHO WAS WELL AWARE OF CONTENTS OF NOTE AND HISTORY OF DIFFICULTIES IN PRESENTING IT (NOTE HAD PROBABLY BEEN XEROXED AT SOME STAGE IN THIS PROCESS), READ NOTE VERY CAREFULLY AND ASKED IF WE COULD NOT CHANGE OR ELIMINATE CERTAIN WORDS THAT HIS PRINCIPALS WOULD FIND SUBJECTIVE OR INFLAMMATORY AND WOULD PROBABLY GIVE RISE TO AN INTER- PERATE RETROT.

2. IN PARTICULAR, GARCIA BEDOYA SAID HIS PRINCIPALS WOULD FIND THE WORDS "PRECIPITATE" AND "ARBITRARY" IN PARAGRAPH 3 OFFENSIVE. HE ALSO SAID IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE IF ANOTHER WORD COULD BE FOUND TO SUBSITUTE FOR "DISPROPORTION" IN PARAGRAPH 2. FINALLY, HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT A SUBSTITUTE COULD BE FOUND FOR WORD "SUGGEST" IN PARAGRAPH 4 (WORD "SUGIERE" IN SPANISH CARRIES THE CON- NOTATION OF A COMMAND). IF THESE CHANGES COULD BE MADE, HE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LIMA 04997 202347Z

SAID, HIS GOVERNMENT, WHILE IT WOULD NOT BE PLEASED BY THE

NOTE, WOULD PROBABLY BE ABLE TO RESPOND IN MEASURED TONES.

3. GARCIA BEDOYA SAID THAT HE BELIEVED A MEASURED EXCHANGE ON THIS SUBJECT IS A MATTER OF IMPORTANCE IN THE CONTEXT OF WHAT HE IMPLIED WAS A CURRENT WARMING TREND IN RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. HERE THE SECRETARY GENERAL MADE AN INDIRECT BUT OBVIOUS REFERENCE TO THE GOOD PROSPECTS FOR THE FAVORABLE RESOLUTION OF OUR CIVIL AIR PROBLEM. WE ALSO DISCUSSED THE NOTABLE REDUCTION, ALMOST ELIMINATION, IN RECENT WEEKS OF ANTI-U.S. ATTACKS IN THE PERUVIAN PRESS. SIGNIFICANTLY, GARCIA BEDOYA COMMENTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN NAIVE ("INGENUO") IN BELIEVING THAT THE NEW PRESS WOULD NOT BECOME (INFILTRATED (REFERRING TO THE COMMUNISTS)).

IT HAD NOW AWAKENED TO THE DANGER AND IS SEEKING TO ELIMINATE THEM. FINALLY, GARCIA BEDOYA COMMENTED FAVORABLY ON MY APPEARANCE BEFORE THE PERUVIAN WAR COLLEGE (CAEM) THE DAY BEFORE, WHICH HAD BEEN SCHEDULED FOR ONE HOUR BUT RAN FOR THREE. HE SAID GENERAL VARGAS PRIETO, CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF, HAD SPOKEN IN PARTICULARLY ENTHUSIASTIC TERMS TO HIM, SAYING THAT IT HAD DONE MUCH TO REMOVE DOUBTS AND IMPROVE UNDERSTANDING AMONG THE CAEM STUDENTS AND STAFF.

4. I STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT THE DEPARTMENT ADOPT THE CHANGES SUGGESTED BY GARCIA BEDOYA. IN PARTICULAR, I RECOMMEND (A) THAT THE WORD "DISPROPORTION" IN PARAGRAPH 2 BE REPLACED BY THE WORD "DISPARITY"; (B) THAT THE WORDS "WAS PRECIPITATE AND ", AND "ARBITRARY" BE ELIMINATED IN PARAGRAPH 3; AND (C) THAT PARAGRAPH 4 BE REVISED TO READ "THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES THEREFORE BELIEVES THAT IT WOULD BE CONVENIENT FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF PERU TO CONSIDER MEASURES WHICH MAY BE APPROPRIATE TO REMEDY THE SITUATION WHICH HAS ARISEN." (NOTE THE "UNOFFICIAL" TRANSLATION OF THIS PARAGRAPH, WHICH WILL BE THE TEXT ON WHICH GARCIA BEDOYA'S PRINCIPALS WILL FOCUS, WOULD READ, "EL GOBIERNO DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS CREE, POR LO TANTO, QUE SERIA CONVENIENTE QUOZTLNGOBIERNO DEL PERU CONSIDERE MEDIDAS QUE PUEDEN SER APROPRIADAS PARA REMEDIAR LA SITUACION

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LIMA 04997 202347Z

QUE HA SURGIDO." THIS PHRASEOLOGY CARRIES THE ENGLISH CONNOTATION OF "SUGGEST" AND AVOID THE HARSHER CONNOTATION OF THE SPANISH "SUGIERE".)

5. COMMENT: AS WE HAVE SEPARATELY REPORTED, THERE APPEAR TO BE SEVERAL NEW CURRENTS AT WORK BENEATH THE FACADE OF THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT. WHETHER THESE CURRENTS WILL EVENTUALLY BREAK TO THE SURFACE OR EFFECT

ANY CHANGE IN THE CHARACTER OF THE GOVERNMENT IS AS
YET UNCERTAIN. HOWEVER, THERE ARE CLEAR SYMPTOMS OF FLUX,
INCLUDING IMPORTANTLY THAT REFERRED TO BY GARCIA BEDOYA
IN HIS COMMENTS ON PRESS TREATMENT OF THE U.S. AT A TIME
WHEN THE GOVERNMENT IS APPARENTLY CRACKING DOWN ON EXTREME
LEFTISTS (THOUGH NOT YET ON THE MOSCOW LINERS), I DO NOT BELIEVE
IT TO BE IN OUR INTEREST TO DIVERT THE GOP
BY PUSHING IT INTO A CORNER WHERE IT MAY
FEEL COMPELLED AGAIN TO TURN THE PRESS LOOSE AGAINST THE
U.S. THE LEFTISTS IN THE PRESS ARE STILL THERE AND WAIT-
ING; THEY WOULD WELCOME AN OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW THEIR
CAMPAIGN. MORE BROADLY, IF THE GOP HAS INDEED BECOME SUFFI-
CIENTLY CONCERNED BY WHAT IT MAY PERCEIVE AS A THREAT FROM
THE LEFT SO THAT IT BELIEVES IT EXPEDIENT TO MEND ITS
FENCES WITH THE U.S. (AND WE CANNOT YET BE SURE THAT THIS
IS IN FACT THE CASE), IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE NOT TO AFFORD
SUCH A TREND EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO DEVELOP. THE CHANGES
RECOMMENDED IN PARAGRAPH 4 ABOVE WOULD AVOID CONFRONTATION
ON THE PROBLEM AT HAND WITHOUT DILUTING THE POINT WE WISH
TO MAKE AND HAVE ALREADY REPEATEDLY MADE ORALLY.
DEAN

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